

Minutes of the 1,242<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards, held on Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the South Dining Room.

Present: Dr. Bruce Kidd (Interim Warden)  
Mr. Nicholas Arrigo (Music Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Anita Comella (Presidential Appointee)  
Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee)  
Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [*ex officio*] Designate)  
Ms. Clara Ho (UTSU Appointee)  
Ms. Klara Kovar (Art Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Ann McPherson (GSU Appointee)  
Mr. Ben Peel (Debates Committee Secretary)  
Mr. Naufil Rasheed (Finance Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Stacey Redick (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)  
Dr. Johanne Roberge (RAC Senior Member)  
Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)  
Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)  
Mr. Jimmy Truong (Farm Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Phoebe Uguy (Theatre Committee Secretary)

Ms. Amanda Greener (Executive Assistant to the Warden; Recording Secretary)

Guests: Mr. Michael De Angelis (Director, Programme Administration)  
Mr. Chris Lea (Facilities Manager)  
Mr. Hugh McBride  
Ms. Rita O'Brien (CAO)  
Ms. Virginia Ise (Director, Communications)  
Mr. Louis Charpentier

Regrets: Ms. Tori Prouse (Social Justice Committee Secretary)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD APPROVED the agenda.**

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**The minutes of the 1,241<sup>st</sup> meeting held of February 16<sup>th</sup>,2012, were approved.**

**3. Business Arising**

**a) Warden Search Committee Update** – Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-President, Student Life.

Ms. Fromowitz informed the Board that the Committee expects to be able to announce the new Warden in six weeks.

**b) Hart House Constitution – Motion – Bruce Kidd, Interim Warden**

The motion was presented and seconded.

The Warden introduced the proposed revisions to the Constitution of Hart House. In the first place, the revisions would insert the Vision into the constitution. Secondly, they would clarify the roles of the Board of Stewards and the Warden with respect to governance and administration. While the principle of shared decision-making will be preserved, the role of the Board of Stewards will be limited to governance—approval of policies and budgets, oversight and advice—while the Warden and the staff will be responsible for administration within approved policies. These changes would bring the Hart House Constitution in line with University of Toronto governance overall. The revisions to the constitution will additionally allow for the creation of disciplinary measures for non-student members.

The Warden reminded the Board that these revisions had first been introduced at the last Board meeting. He commented that much helpful feedback had been given by the Board at that meeting and at a follow up meeting. He thanked all those who submitted feedback—many suggestions have been incorporated and they helped to strengthen the draft.

Louis Charpentier was introduced for comment. Mr. Charpentier congratulated Professor Kidd for the proposed changes. He also commended Hart House for a process that included nuanced consultation. He stated that the maturation of the draft is in line with the University and elsewhere and reflects the standards that the Governing Council expects of itself.

Feedback and questions were opened. Ms. Fromowitz congratulated the Warden on providing an opportunity to unpack language at the supplemental meeting, commenting that it was a good process. A question was raised about discipline of non-members. The motion gives the Board the power to discontinue membership for non-student members who may contravene House rules. Care was taken to ensure that this was in line with legislation. Such measures were necessary as Hart House has non-student/staff/faculty members.

**On a motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY PASSED the following motion:**

**Be it resolved that the proposed revisions to the Constitution of the Board of Stewards of Hart House be approved as presented.**

**c) 2012-2013 Operating Plan and Budget to UAB, Update – Rita O'Brien,  
CAO**

Ms. O'Brien informed the Board that the funding proposal had been rejected at the COSS vote on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 . The 2012-2013 Hart House budget was subsequently revised to reflect the COSS protocol and that revised budget was approved on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the UAB meeting.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a) Update on Hart House Website – Virginia Ise, Communications Manager**

Ms. Ise introduced the website project to the Board. She explained that Rocket Digital Management has been hired to build a new website for Hart House. The new design will include an intuitive navigation system, a “What’s On” application and a more robust calendar system. The site will be made more functional and more searchable, comparable to websites such as Harbourfront.

These goals were created to meet various stakeholder needs, including those of faculty, staff, students, and the community. There will be many different ways to interface with the site.

Other highlights of the new site include a microsite for each Club and Committee, in which they will be able to create their own content as needed. The changes of the website require migration from Wordpress to Drupal. A gallery of Hart House brand templates and widgets will be built to further support diverse functionality. Ms. Ise asked that anyone who has ideas for functionality to please contact her.

The website will soon be moving into the wire frame stage. This will be completed by May or June in order to allow for a soft launch. Members of the Board of Stewards and the Management Committee will be asked to test the website at this stage and provide feedback prior to going live.

##### **b) How to Ensure Effective Student Engagement in Clubs, Committees and the Board of Stewards? – Bruce Kidd, Interim Warden**

The Interim Warden commented that the written introduction of the Guiding Documents of Hart House is useful but does not engage students in a vibrant way. He said that there is a necessary formality to introducing business and motions and that the written documents are efficient in conveying information, but that the Board should consider other avenues to further engage with student committee representatives.

Mr. Peel and Mr. Truong, as student representatives presented their belief that more focus was needed on engagement during Board orientation. They suggested that the student representatives meet the staff at orientation and be given the chance to meet with student union and student life professionals in order to support event collaborations and other activities. They also suggested a once-a-term social with

all Board members, and a once a term meeting between the student representatives and the Warden.

Mr. Truong agreed, confirming that he believed that meeting more often with staff would allow students to have a clearer idea of whom they will be working with and whom they can go to with specific concerns. He believes that empowering secretaries will enable them to be more successful within their roles.

A suggestion was made by Ms. Fromowitz for secretaries to speak at ULife at the beginning of the year in order to introduce themselves to those attending. She also informed the Board of a two-day retreat in June with all the unions for the purpose of information sharing, and of a retreat in September with all executives from clubs, with college representatives attend both retreats as well.

In response to a suggestion that secretaries should get credit for their involvement, Ms. Fromowitz replied that a co-curricular record is being developed for the end of the year and that a Hart House representative will be involved to ensure representation of the students involved in Hart House clubs and committees. This record will bear the official seal of the University and speak to relevant competencies.

The Interim Warden concluded the discussion by praising the excellent suggestions. He suggested that two committees per term could give a presentation to the Board, providing an opportunity to flesh out their activities and bring questions to the Board. He also stated the orientation training will become more rigorous.

### **c) Committee Reports**

Appended reports from representatives of the following groups were submitted for the information of Board members:

- Art Committee
- Finance Committee
- Literary and Library Committee
- Music Committee
- Recreational Athletics Committee
- Theatre Committee

### **d) Departmental Reports**

- Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
- Information Technology and Finance

## **5. Interim Warden's Update**

The Interim Warden presented to the Board several highlights from events this month. He first commented on the Living Library as his favourite event this month; it allowed participants to speak to big thinkers about what matters to them by

having upfront and personal conversations. Also mentioned was the visit earlier in the day of potential undergrads and their parents. Hart House was very busy and the Interim Warden commented that it was no surprise that the University of Toronto showcased Hart House when they wanted to demonstrate ceremonial capacity.

The Interim Warden informed the Board that Athletics scans were up 19% in the last quarter and that in particular women's swipes were up 28%.

Elections for the clubs and committees are proceeding with eight committee nominations and a contest in the Debates committee. There have been 36 applications for committee positions and voting will be held from 9am Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> – 9pm Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Professor Kidd informed the Board that the Shield Contest received 40 entries and that the jury was had met once and would finalize the results next week.

The Interim Warden notified the Board that the Facilities and Theatre reviews were in their final stages. He hopes to receive these views in time to bring them to the next Board meeting.

Meetings will soon commence to discuss the best way to plan for a comprehensive greening renewal of the building. Gail Milgrom, Assistant Vice President, Space and Facilities Planning, is preparing an Request For Proposals and Hart House has support centrally to move cautiously in this direction.

The Interim Warden announced that he hoped to have a draft of the fundraising plan available for the next Board meeting. He also offered his congratulations to Anita Comella on the approval for the back campus field for the Pan Am Games by UAB, Academic Board, and Planning and Facilities. Governing Council approval is expected shortly.

In connection with the Pan Am Games, the Museums Walk—a project headed by Barbara Fischer to link major museums in the downtown core providing Torontonians and visitors a much more visible way of enjoying these resources—has been taken to senior arts administration and received a measured but warm response.

The Interim Warden thanked Ms. Ho for her work on COSS and for initiating a process for rethinking the COSS model. Prof. Kidd asked that invitations be extended to current and incoming Board Committee secretaries. He commented that the COSS is hopelessly blocked and negative. Despite all unions speaking to our benefits Hart House was voted down. As they can be vetoed regardless of what they decide, the COSS process undermines the quality of student engagement. A COSS retreat is being planned with student unions, management representatives and Hart House committee secretaries. They will discuss programming and

collaborations as well as weigh in on priority initiatives, instead of just focusing on the budget. The Interim Warden asked those who wish to propose items for the agenda contact him.

Ms. Ho thanked Ms. Fromowitz and Prof. Kidd for recognizing the need for productive discussions about student services on campus. She explained that there is often a lack of communications between different groups on campus. The date of the retreat is to be set before June and she hopes to engage both incoming and outgoing students.

#### **6. Other Business and Announcements**

Mr. Truong informed the Board that the Farm Committee should have chickens by the next meeting. He also announced the Sugaring Off event next weekend to bring back syrup and have a café. This is in an attempt to build a potential market for next year.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

March 15, 2012